United Nations CEDAW/C/2001/II/1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Twenty-fifth session
2-20 July 2001

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-fifth session.

Annotations

Item 1. Opening of the session

The twenty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 9 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 7 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention.

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At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twenty-fifth session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups, namely Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2001/II/1)

Item 3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Committee

Under this item, the Chairperson will brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

Item 4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and other progress made in that respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee requests.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to invite eight States parties to present their reports. Eight States parties agreed to this request.

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial report of Andorra (CEDAW/C/AND/1), the combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Guinea (CEDAW/C/GIN/1-3 and Corr.1), the initial and second periodic reports of Singapore (CEDAW/C/SGP/1 and CEDAW/C/SGP/2), the second periodic report of Guyana (CEDAW/C/GUY/2), the second and third periodic reports of the Netherlands (CEDAW/C/NET/2/Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/NET/3/Add.1 and 2), the second and the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/2 and CEDAW/C/VNM/3-4), the fourth and fifth periodic reports of Nicaragua (CEDAW/C/NIC/4 and CEDAW/C/NIC/5), and the fourth and fifth periodic reports of Sweden (CEDAW/C/SWE/4 and CEDAW/C/SWE/5).

Rule 51 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of the State is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the reports. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-fifth session.

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the submission of the reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/2001/II/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare a list of issues and questions relating to periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. At its nineteenth session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would meet at the end of the session prior to which second and subsequent reports would be considered. The pre-session working group for the twenty-fifth session met in New York from 5 to 9 February 2001. The report of the pre-session working group and the responses of States parties to the list of issues and questions drawn up by the pre-session working group will be before the Committee (CEDAW/PSWG/2001/II/CRP.1 and Add.1-5).

Documentation

Initial report of Andorra (CEDAW/C/AND/1)

Combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Guinea (CEDAW/C/GIN/1-3 and Corr.1)

Initial and second periodic reports of Singapore (CEDAW/C/SGP/1 and CEDAW/C/SGP/2)

Second periodic report of Guyana (CEDAW/C/GUY/2)

Second and third periodic reports of the Netherlands (CEDAW/C/NET/2/Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/NET/3/Add.1 and 2)

Second and combined third and fourth periodic reports of Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/2 and CEDAW/C/VNM/3-4)

Fourth and fifth periodic reports of Nicaragua (CEDAW/C/NIC/4 and CEDAW/C/NIC/5)

Fourth and fifth periodic reports of Sweden (CEDAW/C/SWE/4 and CEDAW/C/SWE/5).

Report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/2001/II/CRP.1 and Add.1 (Guyana), Add.2 (Netherlands), Add.3 (Nicaragua), Add.4 (Sweden) and Add.5 (Viet Nam).

Responses to list of issues (CEDAW/PSWG/2001/II/CRP.2 (Guyana) and Add.1 (Nicaragua), Add.2 (Netherlands), Add.3 (Viet Nam) and Add.4 (Sweden).

Item 5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee, in plenary, information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

At its twenty-third session, the Committee adopted decision 23/III on article 4.1 of the Convention, in which it decided to prepare a general recommendation on article 4.1 of the Convention, bearing in mind the Committee's three-stage process for the preparation of general recommendations adopted at its seventeenth session. It also decided that a general discussion and exchange of views with the specialized agencies, other bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations should take place during the twenty-fourth session in January 2001.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee began discussion of a general recommendation on article 4.1 of the Convention on temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women. It requested the Secretariat to provide, at its twenty-fifth session, an analysis of the Committee's approach to article 4.1 in its consideration of States parties' reports. The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretariat on the temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women (CEDAW/C/2001/II/5).

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/2001/II/3 and addenda).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women (CEDAW/C/2001/II/5)

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of the specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/2001/II/3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/2001/II/3/Add.1)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/2001/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/2001/II/3/Add.3)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/2001/II/3/Add.4)

Item 6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session (CEDAW/C/2001/II/4).

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare an analysis of the approach of other human rights treaty bodies to reservations in the considerations of States parties reports and communications for the Committee's consideration at its twenty-fifth session. This will be provided as part of the report on ways and means.

At the same session, the Committee discussed its current pattern of concluding comments and their means of formulation. It requested the Secretariat to prepare an analysis of its concluding comments, including with respect to length, balance and reflection of the concluding observations of other human rights treaty bodies, for the Committee's consideration at its twenty-fifth session. The analysis will also be provided as part of the report on ways and means.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/2001/II/4)

Item 7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Committee

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-fifth session

Annex

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
Monday, 2 July 2001 **509th meeting**		
10 a.m.	**Item 1**	**Opening of the session**
	Item 2	**Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**
	Item 3	**Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Committee**
	Item 5	**Implementation of article 21 of the Convention:** introductory statement
	Item 6	**Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee:** introductory statement
3 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole: composition of Working Groups I and II and issues for discussion
Tuesday, 3 July 2001		
10-11.30 a.m. (closed)		Informal meeting with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
3-4.30 p.m.		Informal meeting with non-governmental organizations
4.30-6 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 4 July 2001	**Public holiday**	

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
Thursday, 5 July 2001 **510th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**Item 4**	**Consideration of the reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention**
		Sweden, fourth and fifth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/SWE/4 and CEDAW/C/SWE/5)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
511th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Sweden (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 6 July 2001 **512th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**Item 4**	Netherlands, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/NET/2/Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/NET/3/Add.1 and 2)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
513th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Netherlands (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Monday, 9 July 2001 **514th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m. (closed)	**Item 4**	Singapore, initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/SGP/1 and CEDAW/C/SGP/2)

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
515th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Singapore (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Tuesday, 10 July 2001 **516th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m. (closed)	**Item 4**	Andorra/initial report (CEDAW/C/AND/1)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
517th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Andorra (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 11 July 2001 **518th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**Item 4**	Viet Nam, second and combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/VNM/2 and CEDAW/C/VNM/3-4) Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
519th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Viet Nam (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
Thursday, 12 July 2001 **520th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m. (closed)	**Item 4**	Guinea, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/GIN/1-3 and Corr.1)
10.30-11.30 a.m.		Introduction by the representative of the State party
11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
521st meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Guinea (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 13 July 2001 **522nd meeting**		
10 a.m.	**Item 4**	Replies (Singapore)
(closed)	**Item 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
523rd meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Replies (Andorra)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Monday, 16 July 2001 **524th meeting**		
10 a.m.	**Item 4**	Replies (Guinea)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Tuesday, 17 July 2001 **525th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**Item 4**	Nicaragua, fourth and fifth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/NIC/4 and CEDAW/C/NIC/5)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Documentation/programme*
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
526th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Nicaragua (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 18 July 2001 **527th meeting**		
10-10.30 a.m.	**Item 4**	Guyana, second periodic report (CEDAW/C/GUY/2)
		Introduction by the representative of the State party
10.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
528th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Item 4**	Guyana (continued)
(closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Thursday, 19 July 2001		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
3-6 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 20 July 2001		
10 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed)	**Items 5 and 6**	Working Group of the Whole
529th meeting		
3 p.m.	**Items 5 and 6**	Adoption of the reports of Working Groups I and II
	Item 7	**Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session**
	Item 8	**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-fifth session**

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Twenty-fifth session
2-20 July 2001
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that States parties shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in that respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years, and further whenever the Committee so requests.

2. Rule 47 of the rules of procedure of the Committee provides that, at each session, the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. Annex I to the present report lists the States parties whose reports were overdue at 22 May 2001.

3. Annex II lists the reports submitted by States parties up to 22 May 2001 that have not yet been considered by the Committee.

* CEDAW/C/2001/II/1.

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Annex I

States parties whose reports are due and have not yet been submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

A. Initial reports

State party	*Date due*
Albania	10 June 1995
Angola	17 October 1987
Bahamas	5 November 1994
Benin	11 April 1993
Bhutan	30 September 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1994
Botswana	12 September 1997
Brazil	2 March 1985
Cambodia	14 November 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1982
Central African Republic	21 July 1992
Chad	9 July 1996
Comoros	30 November 1995
Congo	25 August 1983
Costa Rica	4 May 1987
Côte d'Ivoire	17 January 1997
Djibouti	2 January 2000
Dominica	3 September 1982
Eritrea	5 October 1996
Estonia	20 November 1992
Gambia	16 May 1994
Grenada	29 September 1991
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1982
Kuwait	2 October 1995
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1982
Latvia	14 May 1993

State party	*Date due*
Lebanon	21 May 1998
Lesotho	21 September 1996
Liberia	16 August 1985
Malaysia	4 August 1996
Malta	7 April 1992
Mozambique	16 May 1998
Niger	8 November 2000
Pakistan	11 May 1997
Papua New Guinea	11 February 1996
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1986
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983
Samoa	25 October 1993
Seychelles	4 June 1993
Sierra Leone	11 December 1989
Suriname	31 March 1994
Switzerland	26 April 1998
Tajikistan	25 October 1994
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 February 1995
Togo	26 October 1984
Turkmenistan	31 May 1998
Tuvalu	6 November 2000
Vanuatu	8 October 1996

B. Second periodic reports

Albania	10 June 1999
Angola	17 October 1991
Azerbaijan	9 August 2000
Bahamas	5 November 1998
Benin	11 April 1997
Bhutan	30 September 1986
Bolivia	8 July 1995
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1998
Brazil	2 March 1989

State party	*Date due*
Burundi	7 February 1997
Cambodia	14 November 1997
Cameroon	22 September 1999
Cape Verde	3 September 1986
Central African Republic	21 July 1997
Chad	9 July 2000
Comoros	30 November 1999
Congo	25 August 1987
Costa Rica	4 May 1991
Côte d'Ivoire	17 January 2000
Croatia	9 October 1997
Dominica	3 September 1986
Eritrea	5 October 2000
Estonia	20 November 1996
Fiji	27 September 2000
Gabon	20 February 1988
Gambia	16 May 1998
Georgia	25 November 1999
Grenada	29 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1987
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1990
Haiti	3 September 1986
India	8 August 1999
Kuwait	2 October 1999
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1986
Latvia	14 May 1997
Lesotho	21 September 2000
Liberia	16 August 1989
Liechtenstein	21 January 2001
Madagascar	16 April 1994
Malawi	11 April 1992
Malaysia	4 August 2000
Maldives	1 July 1998

State party	*Date due*
Mali	10 October 1990
Malta	7 April 1996
Namibia	23 December 1997
Nepal	22 May 1996
Pakistan	11 April 2001
Papua New Guinea	11 February 2000
Republic of Moldova	31 July 1999
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1987
Samoa	25 October 1997
Seychelles	4 June 1997
Sierra Leone	11 December 1993
Singapore	4 November 2001
Slovakia	27 June 1998
South Africa	14 January 2001
Suriname	31 March 1998
Tajikistan	25 October 1998
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 February 1999
Togo	26 October 1988
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1995
Uzbekistan	18 August 2000
Vanuatu	8 October 2000
Zimbabwe	12 June 1996

C. Third periodic reports

Angola	17 October 1995
Belize	15 June 1999
Benin	11 April 2001
Bhutan	30 September 1990
Bolivia	7 July 1999
Brazil	2 March 1993
Burundi	7 February 2001
Cape Verde	3 September 1990

State party	*Date due*
Central African Republic	21 July 2000
Congo	25 August 1991
Costa Rica	4 May 1995
Cyprus	22 August 1994
Czech Republic	24 March 2001
Dominica	3 September 1990
El Salvador	18 September 1990
Estonia	20 November 2000
Gabon	20 February 1992
Ghana	1 February 1995
Grenada	29 September 1999
Guinea	8 September 1991
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1994
Guyana	3 September 1990
Haiti	3 September 1990
Israel	2 November 2000
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1990
Latvia	24 May 2001
Liberia	16 August 1993
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1998
Madagascar	16 April 1998
Malawi	11 April 1996
Mali	10 October 1994
Malta	7 April 2000
Mauritius	8 August 1993
Nepal	22 May 2000
Paraguay	6 May 1996
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1994
Saint Lucia	7 November 1991
Senegal	7 March 1994
Sierra Leone	11 December 1997
Togo	26 October 1992
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1999
Zimbabwe	12 June 2000

D. Fourth periodic reports

State party	*Date due*
Angola	17 October 1999
Australia	27 August 1996
Belarus	3 September 1994
Bhutan	30 September 1994
Brazil	2 March 1997
Bulgaria	10 March 1995
Burkina Faso	13 November 2000
Cape Verde	3 September 1994
Congo	25 August 1995
Costa Rica	4 May 1999
Cyprus	22 August 1998
Democratic Republic of the Congo[a]	16 November 1999
Dominica	3 September 1994
Ecuador	9 December 1994
El Salvador	18 September 1994
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1997
Ethiopia	10 October 1994
France	13 January 1997
Gabon	20 February 1996
Ghana	1 February 1999
Guatemala	11 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1995
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1998
Guyana	3 September 1994
Haiti	3 September 1994
Honduras	2 April 1996
Indonesia	13 October 1997
Iraq	12 September 1999
Ireland	22 January 1999
Italy	10 July 1998
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1994

State party	*Date due*
Liberia	16 August 1997
Malawi	11 April 2000
Mali	10 October 1998
Mauritius	8 August 1997
Nigeria	13 July 1998
Panama	28 November 1994
Paraguay	6 May 2000
Poland	3 September 1994
Rwanda	3 September 1994
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1998
Saint Lucia	7 November 1995
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1994
Senegal	7 March 1998
Thailand	8 September 1998
Togo	26 October 1996
Turkey	19 January 1999
Turkmenistan	3 May 2000
Uganda	21 August 1998
United Republic of Tanzania	19 September 1998
Uruguay	8 November 1994
Venezuela	1 June 1996

E. Fifth periodic reports

Australia	27 August 2000
Barbados	3 September 1999
Belarus	3 September 1998
Bhutan	30 September 1998
Brazil	2 March 2001
Bulgaria	10 March 1999
Canada	9 January 1999
Cape Verde	3 September 1998
China	3 September 1998
Colombia	18 February 1999

State party	*Date due*
Congo	25 August 1999
Croatia	9 October 2000
Cuba	3 September 1998
Dominica	3 September 1998
Dominican Republic	2 September 1999
Ecuador	9 December1998
El Salvador	18 September 1998
Ethiopia	10 October 1998
France	13 January 2001
Gabon	20 February 2000
Gambia	16 May 2000
Guatemala	11 September 1999
Guinea	8 September 1999
Guyana	3 September 1998
Haiti	3 September 1998
Honduras	2 April 2000
Kenya	8 April 2001
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1998
Mongolia	3 September 1998
Panama	28 November 1998
Philippines	4 September 1998
Poland	3 September 1998
Portugal	3 September 1998
Rwanda	3 September 1998
Saint Lucia	7 November 1999
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1998
Sri Lanka	4 November 1998
Togo	26 October 2000
Uruguay	8 November 1998
Venezuela	1 June 2000
Viet Nam	19 March 1999

[a] By a communication dated 20 May 1997, the Secretariat was informed by the Member State formerly known as Zaire that the name of the State had been changed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Annex II

States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee

State party	*Date due*	*Date received*	*Document symbol*
A. Initial reports			
Fiji[a]	27 September 1996	29 February 2000	CEDAW/C/FIJ/1
Trinidad and Tobago[b]	11 February 1991	23 January 2001	CEDAW/C/TTO/1[b]
B. Second periodic reports			
Armenia[a]	13 October 1998	23 August 1999	CEDAW/C/ARM/2
Czech Republic[a]	24 March 1997	10 March 2000	CEDAW/C/CZE/2
Equatorial Guinea[a]	22 November 1989	6 January 1994	CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya[a]	15 June 1990	18 February 1999	CEDAW/C/LBY/2
Morocco[a]	21 July 1998	29 February 2000	CEDAW/C/MOR/2
Slovenia[a]	5 August 1997	26 April 1999	CEDAW/C/SVN/2
Uruguay[a b]	8 November 1986	8 February 1998	CEDAW/C/URY/2-3
C. Third periodic reports			
Belgium[a]	9 August 1994	29 October 1998	CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4
Equatorial Guinea[a b]	22 November 1993	6 January 1994	CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3
France[a]	13 January 1993	5 October 1999	CEDAW/C/FRA/3
Guatemala	11 September 1991	20 March 2001	CEDAW/C/GUA/3
Iceland [a b]	3 July 1994	15 July 1998	CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4
Kenya[a]	8 April 1993	5 January 2000	CEDAW/C/KEN/3-4
Sri Lanka [a b]	4 November 1990	7 October 1999	CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4
Tunisia	20 October 1994	1 June 2000	CEDAW/C/TUN/3-4
Uganda	21 August 1994	22 May 2000	CEDAW/C/UGA/3
Uruguay[b]	8 November 1990	3 February 1998	CEDAW/C/URY/2-3
Zambia[a]	21 July 1994	12 August 1999	CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4

State party	*Date due*	*Date received*	*Document symbol*
D. Fourth periodic reports			
Argentina[a]	14 August 1998	18 January 2000	CEDAW/C/ARG/4
Barbados[a]	3 September 1995	24 November 2000	CEDAW/C/BAR/4
Belgium[a]	9 August 1994	29 October 1998	CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4
Denmark[ab]	21 May 1996	9 January 1997	CEDAW/C/DEN/4
Greece	7 July 1996	19 April 2001	CEDAW/C/GRC/4-5
Hungary[a]	3 September 1994	19 September 2000	CEDAW/C/HUN/4-5
Iceland[ab]	3 July 1998	15 July 1998	CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4
Japan[a b]	25 July 1998	24 July 1998	CEDAW/C/JPN/4
Kenya[a]	8 April 1997	5 January 2000	CEDAW/C/KEN/3-4
Portugal[ab]	3 September 1994	25 October 1999	CEDAW/C/PRT/4
Sri Lanka[b]	4 November 1994	7 October 1999	CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4
Tunisia	20 October 1998	1 June 2000	CEDAW/C/TUN/3-4
Ukraine[a]	3 September 1994	2 August 1999	CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5
Yemen	29 June 1997	8 March 2000	CEDAW/C/YEM/4
Zambia[a]	21 July 1998	12 August 1999	CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4
E. Fifth periodic reports			
Denmark	21 May 2000	13 June 2000	CEDAW/C/DEN/5
Greece	7 July 2000	19 April 2001	CEDAW/C/GRC/4-5
Hungary[a]	3 September 1998	19 September 2000	CEDAW/C/HUN/4-5
Mexico[a]	3 September 1998	1 December 2000	CEDAW/C/MEX/5
Norway[a]	3 September 1998	23 March 2000	CEDAW/C/NOR/5
Peru[a]	13 October 1999	21 July 2000	CEDAW/C/PER/5
Russian Federation[ab]	3 September 1998	3 March 1999	CEDAW/C/USR/5
Ukraine[a]	30 September 1998	2 August 1999	CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5

[a] Reports that have been translated, reproduced and made available in all official languages.
[b] Reports to be considered by the Committee at its twenty-sixth session, to be held in New York in January 2002.

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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Twenty-fifth session
2-20 July 2001
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with article 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), specialized agencies of the United Nations have been invited to submit to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, at its twenty-fifth session, reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities. The reports will be issued as addenda to the present document.

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Addendum

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. On behalf of the Committee, the Secretariat invited the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to submit to the Committee a report on information provided by States to FAO on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in areas falling within the scope of its activities, which would supplement the information contained in the reports of the States parties to the Convention which will be considered at the twenty-fifth session. Annexed to the present note are three country briefs, prepared by FAO, on Guinea, Uruguay and Sri Lanka.

2. Other information sought by the Committee refers to activities, programmes and policy decisions undertaken by FAO to promote the implementation of the Convention.

3. The report annexed hereto has been submitted in compliance with the Committee's request.

* CEDAW/C/2001/II/1.

01-39858 (E) 220601 250601

Annex I

Twenty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Report on Guinea

Guinea's population of 7.36 million people in 2000 was composed of 49.7 per cent women and 50.3 per cent men. Its economy is mainly based on the development of the agriculture sector, the principal source of employment. Indeed, while 64 per cent of the population lives in the rural areas, 84 per cent of the active population — 50 per cent women and 50 per cent men — derives its livelihood from farming. Moreover, the agriculture sector is one of the country's main sources of economic growth. It accounts for 21 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

There is an annual demand of 750,000 tons of rice, the staple food of Guineans. However, persistent political tension along Guinea's southern borders and the resultant prolonged presence of refugees, especially in the rural areas, have been putting tremendous pressure on its natural resources. Population movements and a rise in the cost of living have also had a considerable impact on crop yields and on the food situation of the population, about 40.3 per cent of which lives below the poverty line. In addition, the sharp rise in petroleum product prices coupled with shrinking external assistance are further weakening the economy.

Guinea has been implementing an agricultural development policy since 1986. The country's development plan is defined in the global development strategy called "Guinea Vision 2010", which comprises the letter of intent on agricultural development policy, the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Guinea and the sustainable human development programme, all of which form part of the Government's strategic vision of the fight against poverty. The letter of intent on agricultural development policy prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry together with the national workshop on the agricultural development strategy for 2010, define the guidelines for agricultural development policy in the medium term. Thus, the aim is to foster and encourage the growing of new crops, such as potatoes and onions, and the development of market garden crops in order to diversify supply and therefore satisfy food and nutritional needs not covered by rice. The main objective is to reduce rice imports and diversify food through the development of other food crops in order to reduce dependence on rice. The organization of the rural areas through the establishment of farmers' organizations based on production sectors and natural regions, as well as the establishment of regional chambers of agriculture, will help to implement this policy.

However, efforts to develop agricultural, livestock, fishery and forestry production as well as Guinea's rural sector, have been plagued by several obstacles, such as poor rural infrastructure and facilities, the low technical level and poor management of farms and institutional weaknesses of State services, the private sector as well as of farmers' organizations. Moreover, the geomorphology of Guinea is such that most arable land in the rain belt consists of wooded hillsides, the clearing of which leads to rapid erosion. Such erosion occurs all the more quickly as the population growth rate of 3.1 per cent and the large number of refugees reduce the fallow period which in the past permitted a relatively satisfactory regeneration of

soil fertility. Sustainable natural resources management would therefore help to alleviate poverty and reduce food insecurity.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which has been a key partner of the country for a long time, enjoys the trust of the Government, the rural population and donors. It was thus at the instigation of FAO that the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) comprising four components — harnessing water and land development; sustainable agricultural activities; diversification of activities; and analysis of constraints — was launched. The goal of SPFS is to allow the country to exploit its natural resources in a sustainable manner and to boost food production and yields while easing pressure on the fragile soils.

Interaction between activities financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in areas falling within the scope of FAO and FAO-sponsored activities is encouraged through SPFS and projects under the Technical Cooperation Programme. The FAO/World Bank cooperation programme is also very dynamic and covers the priority areas of rural infrastructure, soil fertility, security of land tenure, assistance to village communities, agricultural commodity exports and food security.

FAO was particularly involved in the implementation of the national agricultural census, including trying to obtain gender-desegregated data. The census conducted in 2000 yielded new data which will be used as a source of information for the implementation of new capacity-building and skills improvement projects for rural women in order to boost their earnings. The collection and analysis of these data are critical to heightening the authorities' awareness of the role of women, since women are usually the main breadwinners of the household. Thus, improving their access to resources and services will lead to increased agricultural productivity, a more rational use of resources and greater yield from the land, thus responding to one of the main concerns of the Guanine Government.

The commitment of FAO since 1999 to strengthening the role of women in Guinea's development should therefore be highlighted. It should be recalled that the FAO Plan of Action for strengthening the role of women in development provides for assistance for any project that facilitates women's access to means of production and their control over the fruits of their labour, as well as support for any women's production activities designed to alleviate poverty and guarantee food security. Efforts have thus been undertaken to enhance the authorities' awareness of the importance of women's participation in rural development and of the subsequent impact on household income. The cooperation programme therefore meets needs in the country and covers the priority areas of rural infrastructure, support for village communities and for exports of agricultural commodities as well as food security.

FAO supported the project on market gardening cooperatives in the Kobayah and Forécariah regions. The benefits in terms of food production, employment and income from this activity have been acknowledged, especially for mothers in the urban and peri-urban areas. Yet, women in this sector have been experiencing many institutional problems (lack of secure land tenure, lack of supervision and training) as well as agronomic problems (poor production techniques, unfamiliarity with crop species, diseases ...). In this regard, the FAO projects provide for the supply of the necessary inputs to beneficiaries in order to enable them to increase their yields and income. Briefing sessions have been planned for the local authorities responsible for supervising this project.

Provision of support for the development of dairy products by the NAFAYA women's cooperative in the commune of Pita as well as for the development of traditional poultry farming by the women's cooperatives of Boffa, Kindia and Forécariah is in response to the same need. Women should therefore be trained in how to manage their activities so as to increase production and profits. The process entails the purchase and distribution to beneficiaries by the local FAO representative of inputs and farm implements as well as the provision of funds. Another aim is to participate in the construction and maintenance of livestock infrastructure, including hen houses; provide livestock equipment and training, and undertake vaccination.

In 2000, the programme of activities in the field for women was expanded to include assisting women's fish wholesalers' cooperatives in the Boulbinet region in their efforts to boost sales of fresh fish. By developing fish farming, the Government and FAO are developing a sub-sector that helps to increase food security and reduce poverty in the rural areas. This entails the establishment of an operational structure, training and supervision. The participatory approach proposed has tried to involve as many women as possible in the activity. Moreover, the assistance provided for yam production in the Kankan Prefecture is aimed at boosting output of that crop as part of the efforts to achieve food security. These activities are in line with one of the plan's objectives: to increase the benefits that rural women derive from their contribution to agriculture — sustainable rural development — while facilitating their participation in national development.

FAO therefore participates in national capacity-building through its training and technical assistance activities. Its plans of action are centred around activities that generate the supplementary income required by women to provide for their families. They are also activities where women are heavily represented and that need to be developed in order to highlight their role. The diversification of production capacity made possible by the training and technical and financial support provided by FAO is tangible proof that women's role in economic development is taken into account.

In 2000, there was an increase in the number of projects concerning women, including projects to boost the production of improved rice seeds and projects for providing training in the processing and drying of fruits. These projects are coordinated by various FAO services.

Annex II

Report on Uruguay

Uruguay is not an agricultural country. According to FAO statistics, out of 3.3 million inhabitants, only 9 per cent live in rural areas, with 13 per cent of the work force employed in the agricultural sector, of which 12 per cent are women and 88 per cent men.

The economy of Uruguay is closely tied to international conditions. It is oriented towards exports and despite a 2 per cent rise in GDP in 2000, has been affected mainly by fluctuations in the economies of Argentina and Brazil, its two main trading partners. Its main exports are meat, wool and milk. The fall in meat consumption and production because of the foot and mouth disease epidemic has adversely affected purchasing power (a drop of 2.8 per cent) and the country's trade balance. Higher oil prices, a record unemployment level and the ongoing structural adjustment programme have prolonged the country's stagnation, even recession.

The foot and mouth disease epidemic has highlighted the need for the country to diversify its production and to support other food crops. Although the trend towards immigration and rural exodus seems to be stopping, the concentration of farms continues. The number of grain producers has declined by a third over 10 years in favour of the meat sector, with a similar decline in the number of sheep farmers. On the other hand, the amount of acreage used in milk and wine production has increased, although less than 13 per cent of producers are involved. Poor climatic conditions and weakening markets have forced producers to promote the growing of maize for their own consumption. Drought destroyed 70 per cent of the 2000 crop, which is causing a food supply problem.

The Government has therefore drawn up an emergency plan with a view to diversifying production. Special attention was paid to the problem of debt, protection of agriculture and such financial support measures as subsidies. Moreover, the Government has stressed the development of aquaculture at the national level, as the country has abundant natural resources in that area. The economy must be opened up in the framework of the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR), and the problem of imports confronted, especially of consumer goods, intermediate goods and equipment. A particular effort in the area of the health of livestock has been carried out by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries with FAO for effective monitoring in the north of the country.

FAO participates in training projects for the leaders of rural women's groups and projects to promote rural development. Several organizations, such as the Commission on Rural Women or non-governmental organizations like Caritas Uruguay participate in these projects. They are part of the FAO plan of action for Women in Development (1996-2001), which also aims to integrate gender in carrying out development initiatives.

In the implementation of the Plan, FAO activities are focused on four interdependent areas:

- Increased availability, precision and utilization of quantitative and qualitative data and information on the place which women hold in agriculture and rural development;

- Development and utilization of methodologies, instruments and training activities to help development specialists, at FAO and in Member States, to integrate a perspective that takes into account male/female relationships in approaches to agricultural and rural development;
- Strengthening of the skills and capacity of rural women to increase their economic gains while reducing their burden of labour;
- Support for the formulation and implementation of an agricultural and rural development policy that takes male/female relationships into account.

The project on formulating communication, training and information methodology extends the concern for balance in rural development. To FAO, sustainable development with a human face achieves maximum effectiveness only if the people are involved and motivated, and if information and knowledge are shared. Participatory methods of communication help to establish a dialogue among rural people, and among men and women and to facilitate their involvement in decision-making. Communication methods and techniques have not been utilized sufficiently to meet the specific needs of rural women, who must therefore, be provided with the means to become involved in decision-making.

In cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), therefore, the Regional Office has supported research on the training and employment of rural women in order to identify the priority issues to take into account in defining rural development and agricultural policies. In Latin America, and especially in Uruguay, the FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development also focuses on the procedures for institutional surveys of the rights of women in the agricultural sector. Indeed, there are many legal obstacles preventing rural women from gaining access to land, especially in cases of inheritance. As in other countries, the legal rights of women to join cooperative movements are limited. The issue of access to land is thus tied to agrarian reform. The recommendations stress the need to undertake legal reforms to guarantee equal rights for men and women. This institutional change in the country would thus complement reforms already begun in neighbouring countries.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, FAO is also working on a project to design and distribute instructional brochures on health. Women the world over are the main guarantors of nutrition and food safety and quality, and they should have access to information and technical assistance to increase the quality and healthfulness of products and to improve the nutritional status of their households. The need to distribute instructional brochures has increased with the foot and mouth disease problems. Women are thus very involved in the project.

An analysis of the industrial fisheries sector in Latin America took gender issues into consideration. A bibliography was prepared. During 2000, support was given for establishing a network for women working in the fisheries sector (Infopesca) and for creating an Internet site, a modern tool to raise their awareness of this activity, which also facilitates the exchange of information both on technical matters and concerning production management. This action is intended to support women's autonomy in controlling their activities.

The FAO regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean has launched a web site for women (www.rlc.fao.org/mujer). The site underlines the importance of the gender perspective in rural and agricultural development in the region. It also provides information on possibilities for training and links to other women's sites and organizations.

Annex III

Report on Sri Lanka

According to the FAO statistics, in 1999 the population of Sri Lanka was estimated at 18.7 million, of which 76.8 per cent lived in rural areas and 23.2 per cent in urban areas; 46.6 per cent are active in agriculture of which 37 per cent are women and 62 per cent are men.

FAO and its Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (RAP) are engaged in many projects aiming at improving rural people's situation in Sri Lanka. Technical assistance was provided to improve the efficiency of services where women's contributions are high. It concerns the livestock, agricultural and fisheries sectors. Several programmes have been implemented namely for the reconstruction and the rehabilitation in the North. A project proposal for improving income-generating capacities of rural people with disabilities has been developed. FAO has also been involved in wildlife conservation and protected area planning. These programmes and projects promote the equal participation of rural population in the activities and take into consideration women's contribution.

In order to support effective and equitable agricultural and rural development, policy makers and planners in Sri Lanka are invited to collect and analyse additional data in certain areas of women's concern; formulate policies and plans to provide both rural women and men with access to and control over resources, particularly land; and make policy and planning participatory as well as gender-sensitive.

FAO and its Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (RAP) have conducted studies on "Gender Dimensions in Biodiversity" in Sri Lanka. A multidisciplinary technical consultation on gender issues in biodiversity management was organized in order to provide the Government with recommendations to national actions. Analyses were undertaken in order to appraise the existing situation so that the Government could design suitable strategies integrating gender concerns in its planning and implementation.

Different divisions in FAO took part in making a critical assessment of the role of women in crop production, their access to production inputs, their specific needs and constraints. The objective was to determine appropriate and sustainable methods to recognize women's initiative in local development and their knowledge of the production system. Based on the above analysis, suitable strategy for agricultural sector and key sub-sector should integrate gender concerns in programme planning and implementation. The economic and social analysis of the assessment has highlighted the women's situation as regards agricultural credit and technical services. The FAO study took into consideration women's rights in their search for funds as well as their status in the land tenure. It identified the major constraints confronting women towards bank and other credit systems. It has also included a section on the distribution, marketing of farm products and agro-processing in order to develop feasible project outlines to be implemented with technical and financial assistance from various cooperating agencies in future. A comprehensive report was given to the Government.

A similar assessment was done on the role of women in fisheries as regards their access to essential inputs and services. It contributed to the restoration of this sub-sector as a viable commercial enterprise. Provision of Agricultural and Fisheries

Inputs, technical assistance to improve the efficiency of services for the livestock sector were made in response to the government requirement. Studies in 1999 made a comprehensive review of the current situation before development of the Plan of Action for fishery sectors in order to enhance and sustain food production. This action plan integrated data on gender situation, incorporated experiences learned and prioritized interventions.

In 2000, a study led by RAP concerned the women's need due to the war. An assessment was made about the severity of nutritional inadequacy among the internally displaced persons and returning farm families, especially among women and children.